

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environment** Committee held in the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Alison Arthur Martyn Garrett Richard Jury Mia Lederman Kay Moss David Neeves Gareth Owen-Williams* Alan Penney Ron Reed* Greg Rose Colin Stocks Matthew Street*	Vice – Chairman Chairman
Also present		Clr Sylvia Tidy Clr Richard Stogdon John Coleman  Caroline Miles Natalie Gaskell	ESCC ESCC Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee  Town Clerk Minute Taker/Administrator

\*Denotes non attendance

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## **APOLOGIES**

Clr Ron Reed.  
Clr Matthew Street

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clr Kay Moss declared a personal interest in agenda item 5.1 as one of the verges is near her home.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**8906 RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

### Action list

Members expressed concern that resolution number 8851 has not been followed through and asked for a report at the next Environment meeting.

## **RAILWAY REPORT**

Members noted the report. Concerns were raised about the continuation of parking fines being issued to drivers dropping commuters off at the station. John Coleman will raise this issue at his next meeting.

## RANGERS REPORT

### Walshes Park

Members expressed concern that a grassland management plan was being produced by a CTC member of staff for WDC. Members asked that if the plan has not been finished that the work ceases with immediate effect. Members also asked for a report into why the demonstration of the Flail mower did not take place and how long the grassland management plan would take to produce. The report to be available for the next Environment Committee meeting.

### The Ghyll

The land at Jubilee Meadow was purchased with s106 funds and conditions are therefore attached to the use of the land. Members were reluctant to decide on water supply to the field until it is known whether there is a long-term commitment to having ponies grazing on the land. If there is a long-term commitment to use the land as a conservation meadow this should be approved by Full Council.

As there needs to be clarity as to the future use of the land it was agreed that the issue would be included as an Agenda item for Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

### The Country Park

It was noted that ramps to bridges in the Country Park were installed last year.

As the work was not considered essential it was agreed to defer the decision to replace the bridges and the dipping platform until the next Environment meeting as the meeting will take place nearer to the end of the Council's financial year.

### Wildflower Verges

Members had concerns regarding several of the verges earmarked as wildflower verges as this could impact on road safety. It was felt that land earmarked as wildflower areas should be CTC land and not ESCC land. CTC does not have the ground staff resource to carry out work which should be carried out by ESCC. Members agreed that it was for CTC to create bio diverse verges on their own land before looking at ESCC verges.

It was agreed that the Chairman of SRC should meet with the Chairman of the Environment Committee together with the Ranger to look at possible pockets of CTC Land that could be converted to wildflower areas. A report to be produced for discussion at the SRC committee meeting in January.

Cllr Sylvia Tidy to encourage ESCC to manage designated verges in Crowborough as wildflower areas.

## DOG BIN REQUESTS

The car park in St Johns is the responsibility of Withyham Parish Council and the resident should be directed to them. Whilst Adams Field is a dog walking area, dog owners walk through it to walk their dogs in Walshes Park which is owned by WDC. There is a dog bin by the original entrance to the park and it was agreed that WDC is asked to install a waste bin and dog bin at the new entrance to the Park.

**8907 RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to WDC requesting that both a dog bin and litter bin is installed at the new entrance to Walshes Park.

## TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

The report was noted.

**CCTV**

Members were unhappy that a previous member of staff had agreed to renew a contract with Sussex Police without authority from the Committee. It was agreed that the Council has a legal obligation to fund CCTV until 2022. The committee to review the contract in 2021.

- 8908** **RESOLVED** to rescind the resolution to discontinue the funding of CCTV and to continue to fund CCTV in Crowborough until 2022.

**COMMUNITY WARDEN**

The Community Warden's report was noted.

Work on the employment of a part time Community Warden has started. Forest Row Parish Council are currently drawing up a job description and job specification.

The post will then be advertised. A councillor will be involved in the recruitment interview process.

**STREET LIGHTING**

There is not enough money in the street lighting budget to fund the three replacement columns. Street lighting is a viable use of CiL funds.

- 8909** **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that CiL funds are used to replace the faulty street lighting columns at 6 Whitehill road, 5 Fermor Road and the column at Gillridge Green.

The two lights which are adjacent to the Community Centre are the responsibility of the Centre. The Centre should be informed that a resident has complained that the lights are not working.

**GRASS VERGE CUTS**

A straw poll was conducted at the Summer Fair last year and most of the residents that responded were content with the two cuts per year. It was noted that ESCC respond quickly to requests for an emergency cut to a verge when there is a health and Safety issue.

- 8910** **RESOLVED** to opt for option 1 for 2020. Two cuts to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Council.

**SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM**

The Country Park was awarded a Silver award in the South East in Bloom competition this year. Members agreed that this was a great achievement and congratulated all those involved in obtaining the award.

Members agreed to defer the decision as to whether to enter South East in Bloom 2020 until the next Environment Committee meeting.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Members noted the Income and Expenditure report.

- 8911** **RESOLVED** to approve using any remaining Community Warden Earmarked Reserves towards Community Warden costs in 2020/21.

Members were asked to note that the £500 spent on litter bin bags will be removed from 801/4016 (miscellaneous) and will be included in 801/4602 (litter bins) in the draft budget.

Members asked that the £5000 removed from 801/4654 (environmental improvements) and included in EMR be transferred back to 801/4654 in the draft budget.

- 8912 RESOLVED** to recommend the draft Committee budget 2020/21 and the projected budgets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 with the modification of 801/4602 and 801/4654 to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be considered as part of the overall Council budget.

Members Noted the Committee's EMR Position

**URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Residents are concerned about floods impact on properties in Tollwood Road. Pipes are blocked and water is all over the road. This is ESCC Highways land and matter for them to resolve

To consider the installation of a bus shelter on the A26 near to Neville Court to be included on the next Environment Committee agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

